United Nations S/2009/180

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the enclosed statement made by the Government of the Republic of Korea as a response to the launch of a long-range rocket conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 5 April 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have them circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) **Park** In-kook
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Government statement on the launch of a long-range rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

5 April 2009

1. It has been confirmed that at 11:30:15 on April 5, 2009, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) launched a long-range rocket at a launching site located in Musudan-ri, North Hamgyong province. The Republic of Korea (ROK) government is closely cooperating with the United States and related countries on fact-finding and information sharing in connection with the launch.

2. The launch is a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and a provocative act, despite any claim made by the DPRK, which jeopardizes the stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

3. Moreover, the ROK government, together with the international community, is deeply disappointed about the excessive expenditure spent on the launch, which could have contributed to alleviating its chronic food shortage.

4. The ROK government and related countries such as the US, Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have continuously warned the DPRK until the last minute to refrain from the launch. The ROK government expresses grave concern that the DPRK has disregarded such warnings and proceeded with the launch.

5. The ROK government is strengthening its preparedness to deal with any possible provocation from the DPRK and, in close consultation with the UN and related countries, is taking appropriate steps in response to the launch.